

8. SUMNER LIBRARY SINCE INTEGRATION

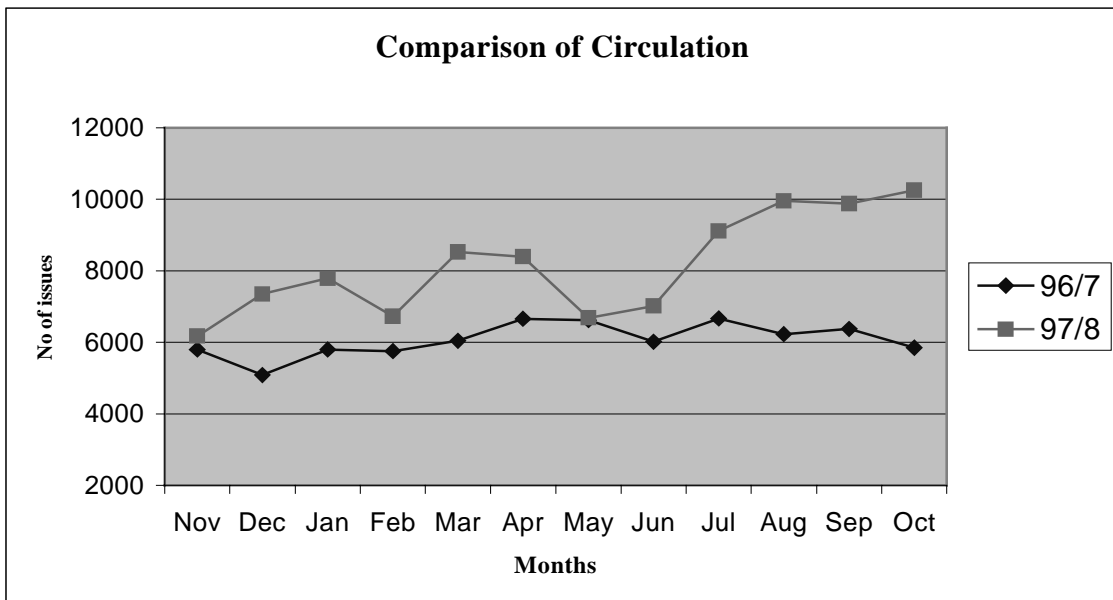
RR 9869

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Corporate Plan Output: Sumner Library Corporate Plan 8.2.14	

The purpose of this report is to brief the Committee on the progress of the Sumner Library since it was integrated into the Canterbury Public Library network in the last week of October 1997. During this time business has grown, membership increased, the library has relocated twice, the existing building has been substantially refurbished and the library remains a focal point in the Sumner community.

The library is open for 36 hours per week – Monday to Wednesday and Friday 11am to 5pm; Thursday 11am to 8pm; and Saturday 10am to 1pm. The library has a staffing level equivalent to 1.95 FTE.

During the first full year of operation post-integration (from November 1997 to October 1998) circulation business increased by 34% from 72,907 issues per annum (1996/97)



to 97,865 per annum. The upward monthly trend has been steadily increasing, with a dip in June 1998 being the period when the library relocated to allow for the alterations to the building. The latest issues for March 1999 were at an all-time high of 10,750 per month with the percentage growth in business being 43% over the same period last year. Some of this business has occurred at the expense of growth in the Linwood Library. However 1,144 new customers registered between October 1997 to December 1998. By comparison Redwood Library (the next smallest library in the network) registered 578 new customers during the same period.

Nine people who were previously involved with the Sumner Volunteer Library have established the Friends of Sumner Library. This group supports the library within the Sumner community and is responsible for the funds remaining from the Voluntary Library. To date, this group has donated new tables, chairs and vertical blinds for the refurbished library. They have had a large panoramic photograph restored, and have provided support during several library functions. There are also three people who, depending on their personal availability, spend time shelving books voluntarily each week.

Highlights in the 17 months since the integration have been:

- the re-opening in the refurbished building with improved space for stock display, public and staff
- the development of a more balanced adult collection
- continued support of the children's area through regular storytelling sessions for preschoolers
- the installation of the DRS library computer system which has automated circulation and has made it possible for customers to access the whole range of stock of the network
- a Public Information Terminal, providing access to the Internet and other electronic resources
- fax and EFT-POS facilities
- purchase of Vivienne Mountfort's wall hanging made possible through the Harold Lester Wilson bequest
- the development of the housebound service for Sumner

The library will continue to be a vital part of the Sumner community as customers gain an even greater awareness of the services available through the Canterbury Public Library network.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received and a letter of thanks be sent to the Friends of Sumner Library, and other volunteers, for the work they are doing.